

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A human/machine interface for a machine vision system having
2 an image element that generates image data based upon a viewed object comprising:
3 a processing element and a memory operatively connected to the image element
4 and including (a) a machine vision tool for performing a machine vision process on the
5 image data and (b) a software process for compressing and reformatting transmitting, in a
6 web-browser compatible form, the image data and information from the machine vision
7 ~~tool into a web-browser-compatible form for transmission over a communications inter-~~
8 ~~face, interconnected to the processing element, to a human/machine interface device hav-~~
9 ~~ing a display, the web-browser-compatible image data and information being adapted for~~
10 ~~display on the human/machine interface device, and wherein the human/machine inter-~~
11 ~~face device is adapted to display the web-browser-compatible image data and the infor-~~
12 ~~mation on a plurality of user-selected screens associated with the machine vision tool, the~~
13 ~~screens being constructed and arranged for selecting functions for at least one of install-~~
14 ~~ing, configuring, training, monitoring, and controlling the machine vision system, and~~
15 ~~wherein the processing element is adapted to perform a machine vision tool task while~~
16 ~~the human/machine interface device is disconnected from the communications interface;~~
17 and
18 wherein the processing element includes a web server and wherein the hu-
19 man/machine interface device comprises a computer having a generic web browser and
20 the screens comprise web pages.
- 1 2. (Cancelled)
- 1 3. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 1 wherein the software
2 process includes a data compression and reformatting process for the image data that
3 causes the image data to be transmitted in compressed form over the communications in-
4 terface.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A human/machine interface for a machine vision system having
2 an image element that generates image data based upon a viewed object comprising:
3 a processing element and a memory operatively connected to the image element
4 and including (a) a machine vision tool for performing a machine vision process on the
5 image data and (b) a software process for transmitting the image data and information
6 from the machine vision tool over a communications interface, interconnected to the
7 processing element, to a human/machine interface device having a display, and the image
8 data and information being adapted for display on the human/machine interface device,
9 and wherein the human/machine interface device is adapted to display the image data and
10 the information on a plurality of user-selected screens associated with the machine vision
11 tool, the screens being constructed and arranged for selecting functions for at least one of
12 installing, configuring, training, monitoring, and controlling the machine vision system
13 and wherein the processing element is adapted to perform a machine vision tool task
14 while the human/machine interface device is disconnected from the communications in-
15 terface; and
16 wherein the human/machine interface device comprises a personal digital assis-
17 tant (PDA).

1 5. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 4 wherein the communi-
2 cation interface includes support for data transmission to a PDA over one of a wireless
3 link and a cable link.

1 6. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 4 wherein the hu-
2 man/machine interface device includes a generic machine vision application residing
3 thereon and the processing element is adapted to install a specialized machine vision ap-
4 plication over the communications interface to the human/machine interface device.

1 7. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 4 wherein the machine
2 vision tool includes a process that determines an intensity distribution of the image data

3 and that transmits information with respect to the determined intensity distribution, and
4 wherein the human/machine interface device includes a process for displaying, based
5 upon the information, a visual representation of the intensity distribution so as to assist in
6 adjusting at least one of lighting intensity, shutter exposure time, lens aperture, and pa-
7 rameters affecting the intensity distribution in the image data.

1 8. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 4 wherein the machine
2 vision tool includes a process that determines a relative degree of focus of the image data
3 and that transmits encoded information with respect to the determined relative degree of
4 focus, and wherein the human/machine interface device includes a process for displaying,
5 based upon the encoded information, a current focus value so as to assist in adjusting fo-
6 cus.

1 9. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 8 wherein the current fo-
2 cus value is displayed as a function of time.

1 10. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 8 wherein the hu-
2 man/machine interface device includes a display that is insufficient in resolution and re-
3 fresh rate to provide a real time display for adjusting either of focus or aperture of lens of
4 the image element.

1 11. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 4 wherein the software
2 process includes a data compression and reformatting process for the image data that
3 causes the image data to be transmitted in compressed form over the communications in-
4 terface.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method for interfacing with a machine vision system having
2 an image element that generates image data based upon a viewed object, the method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 providing a processing element and a memory operatively connected to the image
5 element and including (a) a machine vision tool for performing a machine vision process
6 on the image data and (b) a software process for providing the image data in a web-
7 browser-compatible form and for creating information for constructing interface web
8 pages associated with operation of the machine vision tool;

9 transmitting the image data and information over a communications interface, in-
10 terconnected to the processing element, to a human/machine interface device having a
11 display and a generic web browser application;

12 receiving the image data and information and displaying, on the human machine
13 interface device, the image data and information on a plurality of user-selected screens,
14 each of the screens comprising a web page constructed and arranged for selecting func-
15 tions for at least one of installing, configuring, training, or monitoring the machine vision
16 system; and

17 performing, with the processing element, a machine vision tool task while the
18 human/machine interface device is disconnected from the communications interface.

1 13. (Original) The method as set forth in claims 12 wherein further comprising trans-
2 ferring configuration information from the human/machine interface device to the memory
3 over the communications interface.

1 14. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the step of transferring con-
2 figuration information includes providing training information to the memory.

1 15. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 14 wherein the step of displaying includes
2 monitoring a live image acquired by the image element based upon the image data and
3 information.

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the step of establishing the
2 link comprises opening web pages on the human/machine interface based upon a web
3 server in the machine vision system that interacts with the communications interface to
4 convert the image data and information into web-based data pockets.

1 18. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 12 further comprising communicating
2 control information to a remote device through the communication interface so as to di-
3 rect a device function in accordance with the predetermined instruction of the machine
4 vision tool.

1 19. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 12 wherein the software
2 process includes a data compression and reformatting process for the image data that
3 causes the image data to be transmitted in compressed form over the communications in-
4 terface.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A method for interfacing with a machine vision system having
2 an image element that generates image data based upon a viewed object, the method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 providing a processing element and a memory operatively connected to the image
5 element and including (a) a machine vision tool for performing a machine vision process
6 on the image data and (b) a software process for providing the image data in a transmitta-
7 ble form and for creating information for constructing interface screens associated with
8 operation of the machine vision tool;

9 transmitting the compressed and reformatted image data and information over a
10 communications interface, interconnected to the processing element, to a human/machine
11 interface device, the human/machine interface comprising a personal digital assistant
12 (PDA) having a display and a graphical user interface (GUI);

13 receiving the compressed and reformatted image data and information and dis-
14 playing, on the human machine interface device, the compressed and reformatted image
15 data and information on a plurality of user-selected screens associated with the machine

16 vision tool, the screens being constructed and arranged for selecting functions for at least
17 one of installing, configuring, training, monitoring, and controlling the machine vision
18 system; and

19 performing, with the processing element, a machine vision tool task while the
20 human/machine interface device is disconnected from the communications link.

1 21. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 20 wherein the step of transmitting in-
2 cludes providing the image data and information over one of a wireless link and a cable
3 link.

1 22. (Cancelled)

1 23. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising transferring a ma-
2 chine vision application from the memory over the link to the human machine interface
3 device and installing the loadable machine vision application on the human/machine in-
4 terface so as to interface with the machine vision system using the loadable machine vi-
5 sion application.

1 24. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 20 further comprising communicating
2 control information to a remote device through the communication interface so as to di-
3 rect a device function in accordance with a predetermined instruction of the machine vi-
4 sion tool.

1 25. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 20 further comprising
2 determining, with the machine vision tool, an intensity distribution of the image data and
3 transmitting information with respect to the determined intensity distribution, and dis-
4 playing, based upon the information, a visual representation of the intensity distribution
5 with the human/machine interface device so as to assist in adjusting at least one of light-
6 ing intensity, shutter exposure time, lens aperture, and parameters affecting the intensity
7 distribution in the image data.

- 1 26. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 20 further comprising
- 2 determining, with the machine vision tool, a relative degree of focus of the image data
- 3 and transmitting encoded information with respect to the determined relative degree of
- 4 focus, and displaying, based upon the encoded information, a current focus value with the
- 5 human/machine interface device so as to assist in adjusting focus.

- 1 27. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 26 wherein the step of
- 2 displaying the current focus value includes displaying the current focus value as a func-
- 3 tion of time.

- 1 28. (Original) The human/machine interface as set forth in claim 20 wherein the software
- 2 process includes a data compression and reformatting process for the image data that
- 3 causes the image data to be transmitted in compressed form over the communications in-
- 4 terface.